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SPIDER-MAN

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BACK
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IN
GREEN

DIRECT EDITION

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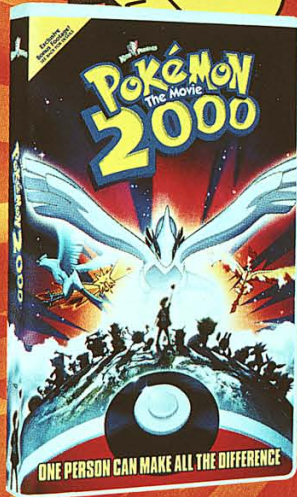
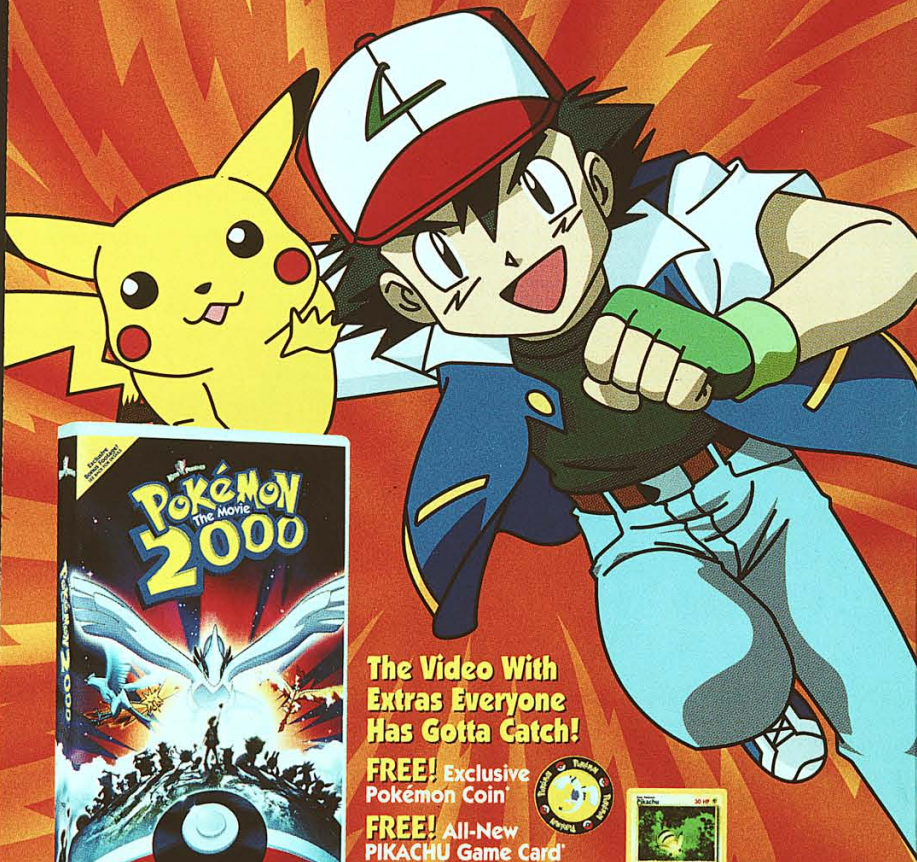
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At a demonstration on radiation, high school student Peter Parker was bitten by an irradiated spider from which he gained the arachnid's incredible abilities. When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his great powers in the service of his fellow man, because he learned an invaluable lesson: With great power must also come great responsibility. STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

I can still hear his voice.

Echoing in my mind.

As if it were yesterday.

As if I were still a child.

NORMAN!

COME HERE!

BE A MAN!

BE AN OSBORN!

Darkness Calling

HOWARD MACKIE/JOHN ROMITA JR. SCOTT HANNA

STORY AND ART GREGORY WRIGHT COLORS RICHARD S. & COMICRAFT'S TROY PETERI LETTERS LARA CASTLE ASST. EDITOR RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: Vol. 2, No. 25, January, 2001. (ISSN #0274-5222) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Bill Jemas, President; Joe Quesada, Editor-in-Chief; Stan Lee, Chairman Emeritus. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10014. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 2001 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$4.50 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$27.00; foreign \$39.00; and Canadian subscribers must add \$10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R12702852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 1979 DANBURY, CT 06815-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. FAX # (203) 744-9944. Printed in Canada. MARVEL COMICS is a division of MARVEL ENTERPRISES, INC. Peter Cuneo, Chief Executive Officer; Avi Arad, Chief Creative Officer.

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But it was long ago and I was a child. And I was very afraid.

COME ON, BOY -- DON'T DELAY. A LITTLE DARKNESS NEVER HURT ANYBODY.



Afraid of the dark. Afraid of the house.

YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN, SON.

I PROMISE YOU, THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

But more afraid of my father.

THIS IS OUR FAMILY ESTATE, BUILT BY YOUR GRANDFATHER HIMSELF.

IT'S JUST ONE NIGHT... IT'LL BE OVER BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

I'LL PICK YOU UP IN THE MORNING AND YOU'LL WONDER WHAT YOU WERE EVER AFRAID OF.

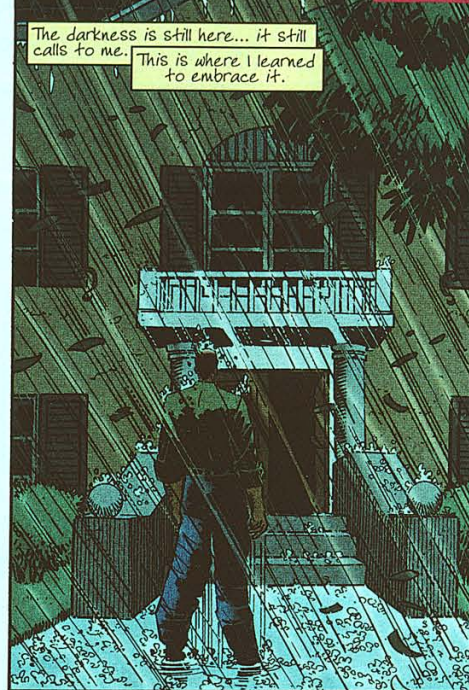
I thought it was my father who didn't understand.

YOU'LL THANK ME FOR THIS ONE DAY, I PROMISE YOU.

I was petrified.

Through tear-filled eyes I pleaded with him.

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The darkness is still here... it still calls to me. This is where I learned to embrace it.



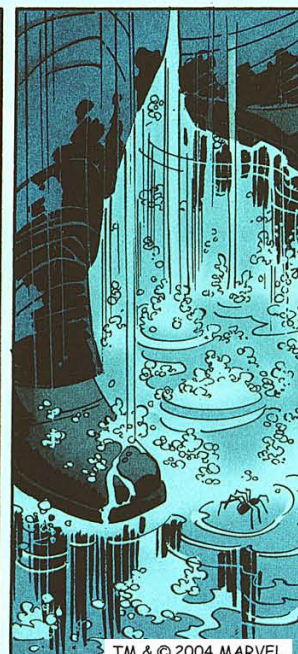
I made friends with the shadows within our familial home...

...and within my soul.

I entered a fearful, sniveling little brat. But when I emerged... how I saw things differently then.

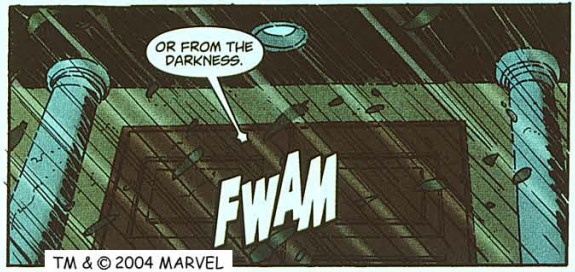
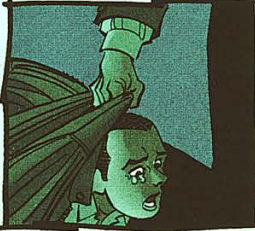
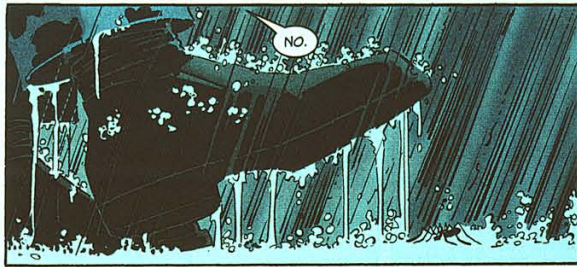


My father was right. I should have thanked him when I had the chance.



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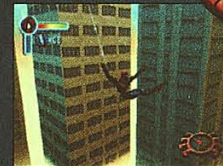


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* Revenge of the Green Goblin
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Yes, you can tell Pikachu
to run, dance and fish.

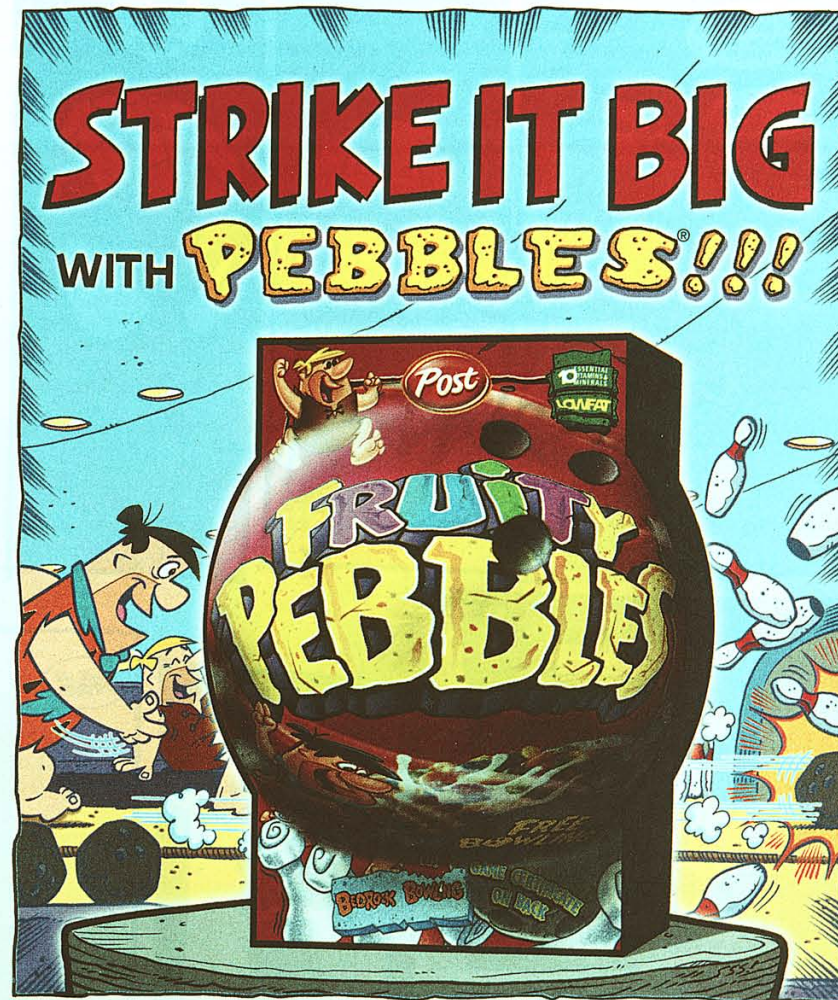
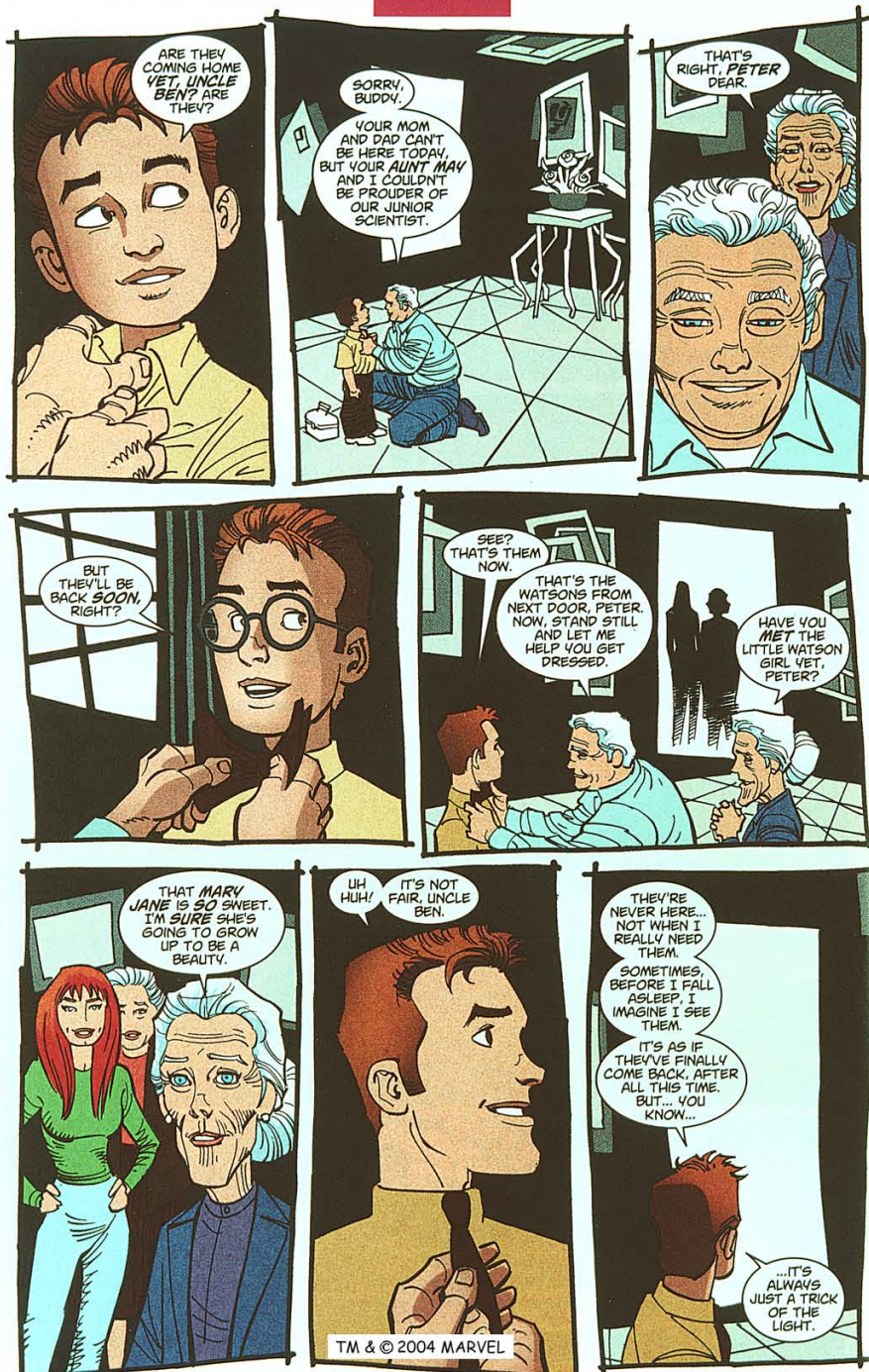


No, you can't tell Pikachu
to do your homework.



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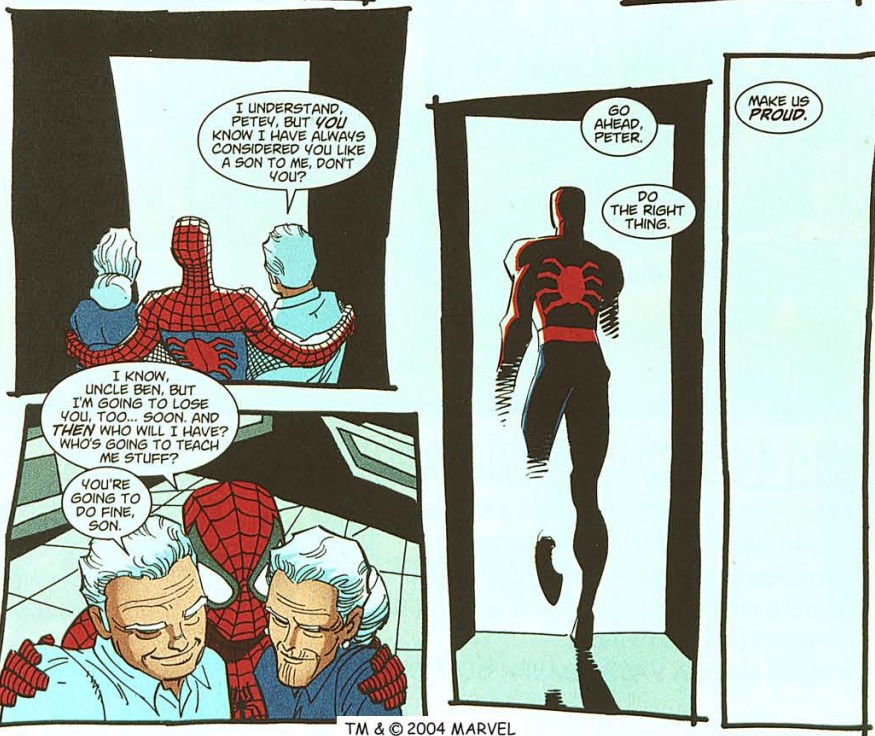
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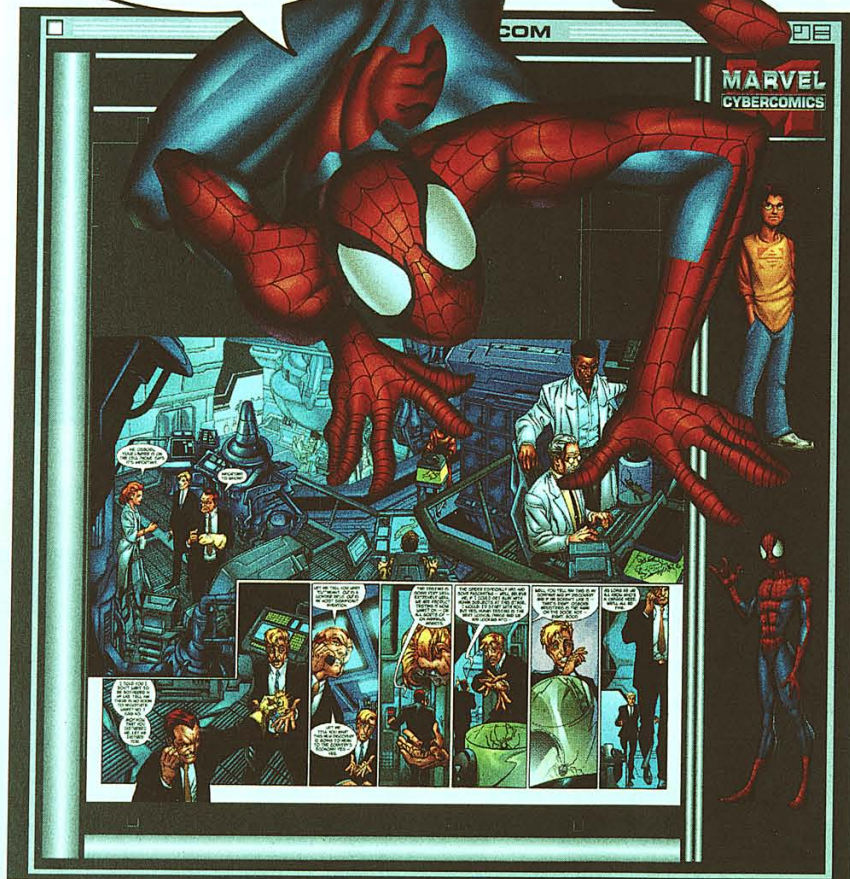
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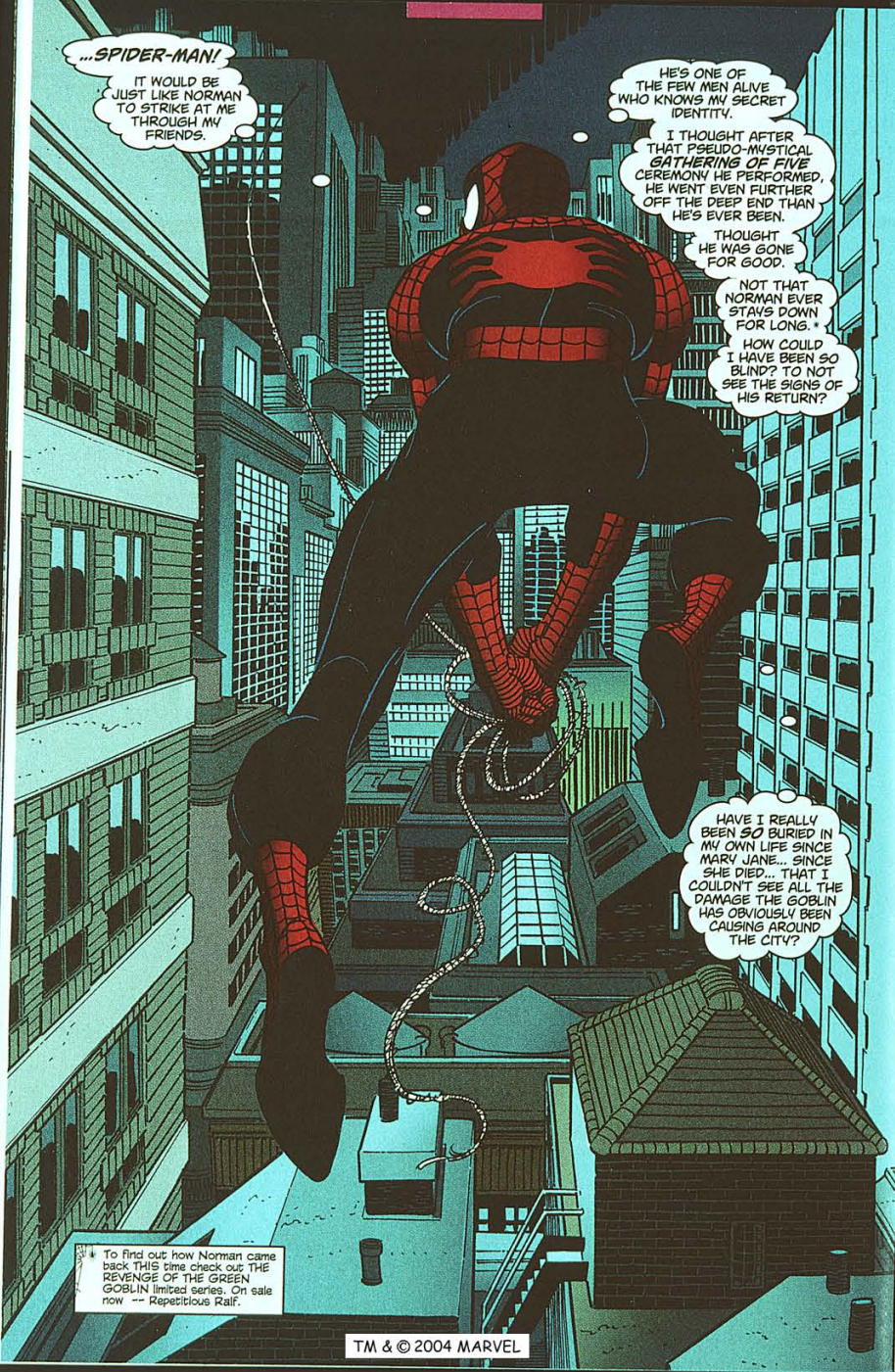
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...SPIDER-MAN!

IT WOULD BE JUST LIKE NORMAN TO STRIKE AT ME THROUGH MY FRIENDS.

HE'S ONE OF THE FEW MEN ALIVE WHO KNOWS MY SECRET IDENTITY.

I THOUGHT AFTER THAT PSEUDO-MYSTICAL GATHERING OF FIVE CEREMONY HE PERFORMED, HE WENT EVEN FURTHER OFF THE DEEP END THAN HE'S EVER BEEN.

THOUGHT HE WAS GONE FOR GOOD.

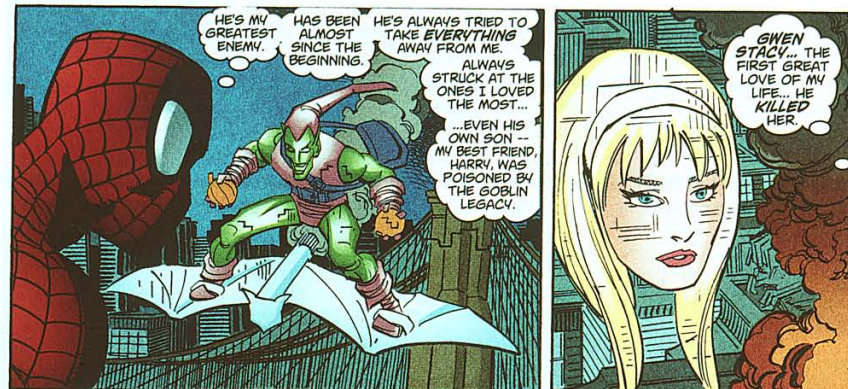
NOT THAT NORMAN EVER STAYS DOWN FOR LONG.

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO BLIND? TO NOT SEE THE SIGNS OF HIS RETURN?

HAVE I REALLY BEEN SO BURIED IN MY OWN LIFE SINCE MARY JANE... SINCE SHE DIED... THAT I COULDN'T SEE ALL THE DAMAGE THE GOBLIN HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN CAUSING AROUND THE CITY?

To find out how Norman came back this time check out THE REVENGE OF THE GREEN GOBLIN limited series. On sale now --- Repetitious Ruff.

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HE'S MY GREATEST ENEMY.

HAS BEEN ALMOST SINCE THE BEGINNING.

HE'S ALWAYS TRIED TO TAKE EVERYTHING AWAY FROM ME.

ALWAYS STRUCK AT THE ONES I LOVED THE MOST...

...EVEN HIS OWN SON -- MY BEST FRIEND, HARRY, WAS POISONED BY THE GOBLIN LEGACY.

GWEN STACY... THE FIRST GREAT LOVE OF MY LIFE... HE KILLED HER.



AND THEN YEARS AFTER I WATCHED HIM DIE, IMPALED ON HIS OWN GOBLIN GLIDER...

...OSBORN RETURNED TO MAKE MY LIFE HELLISH AGAIN.



AND HERE THE SIGNS ARE ALL AROUND.



HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO BLIND?!

HAS EVERYONE KNOWN?



I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE BUGLE.

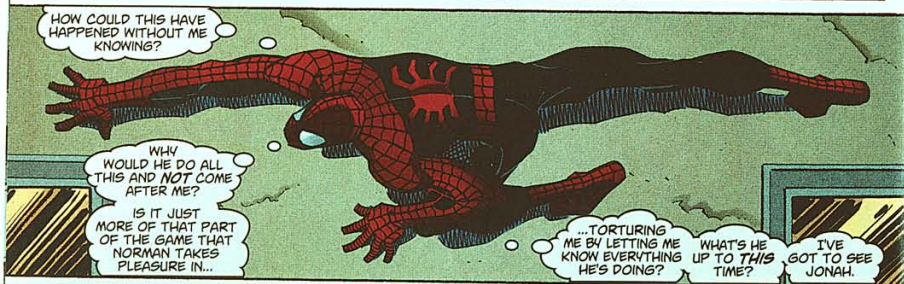
NORMAN HATES J. JONAH JAMESON ALMOST AS MUCH AS HE HATES ME.



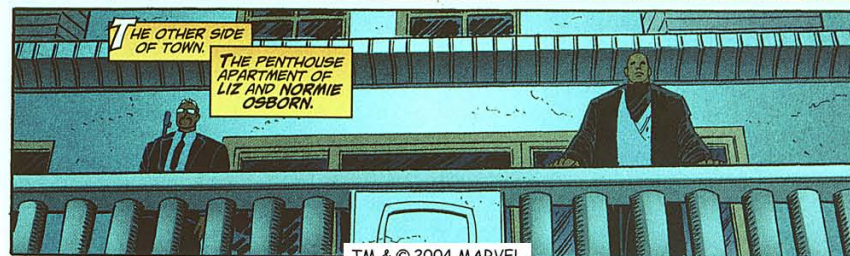
IF HE REALLY IS BACK...

...THEY'RE GOING TO HEAR FROM HIM.

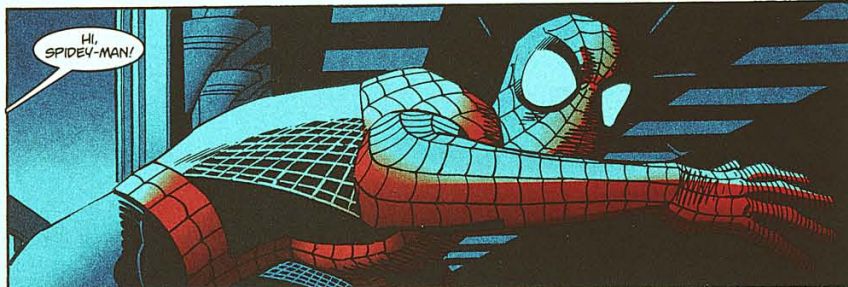
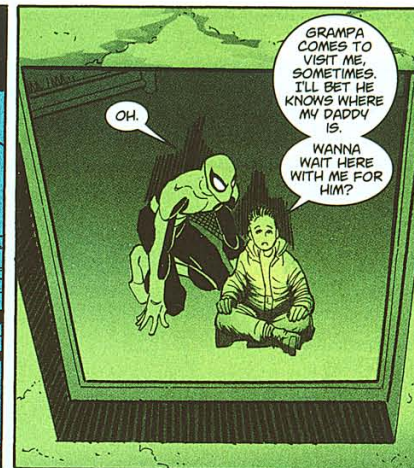
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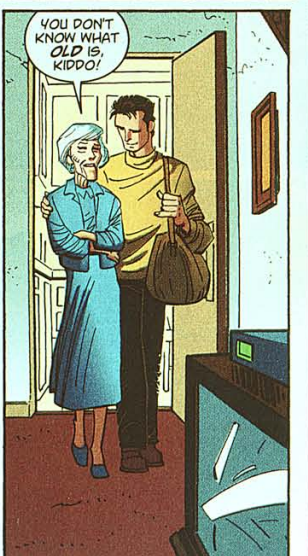
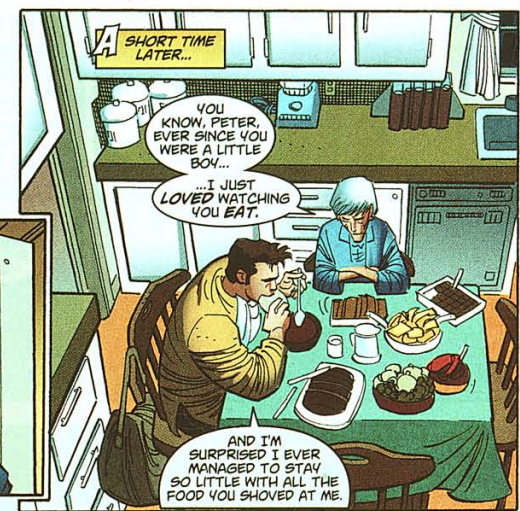
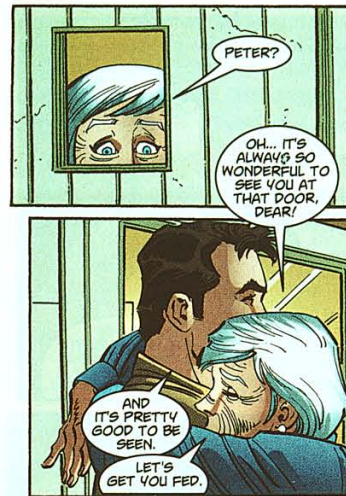


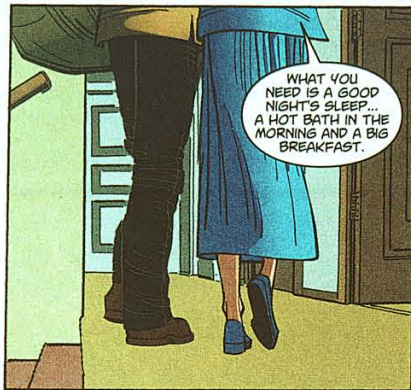
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WHAT YOU
NEED IS A GOOD
NIGHT'S SLEEP...
A HOT BATH IN THE
MORNING AND A BIG
BREAKFAST.



OH
YEAH... WHAT I
NEED IS MORE
FOOD!

OH, AUNT
MAV, I KEEP
FORGETTING TO
COPY THIS CD
OF UNCLE BEN AND
HIS BARBERSHOP
QUARTET ONTO
TAPE FOR
YOU!

SORRY... BUT
I'VE REALLY BEEN
ENJOYING LISTENING
TO IT. I MUST PLAY IT
FIVE OR SIX TIMES A DAY.



THAT'S OKAY, DEAR.
DO IT WHEN YOU
HAVE THE TIME.

I ALWAYS
HAVE THE MEMORIES
OF BEN SINGING
RIGHT TO ME.

AS NICE AS
IT WAS OF CHARLIE
ABBOTT'S GRANDSON
TO SEND IT TO ME...
I PREFER THE WAY I
HEAR BEN'S VOICE IN
MY HEAD.

I'LL...
--YAWN--
DO IT SOON...
PROMISE.



THAT
WOULD BE
NICE, DEAR.



'NITE,
AUNT
MAV.

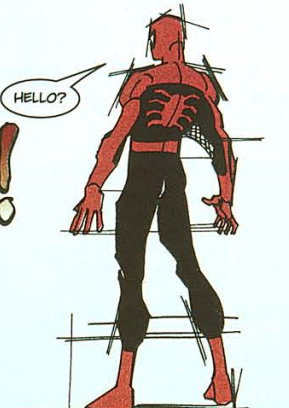


YOU KNOW, PETER...
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN
SUCH A GOOD
BOY...

ZZZZZZ

HAHAHEE HEE!
HAHAHAHAHAHA!

HELLO?

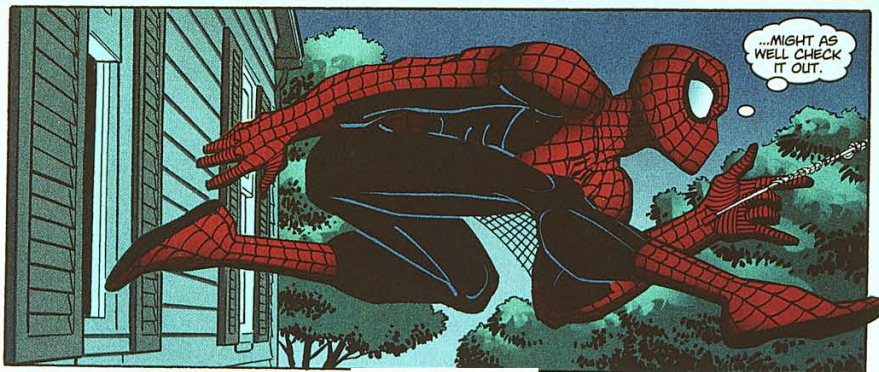


WHO'S
THERE?
DADDY?
IS THAT
YOU?

HAHAHEE HEE!
HAHAHAHAHAHA!

BE
STRONG,
SON.

MAKE US
PROUD.



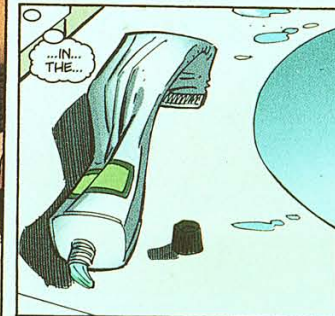
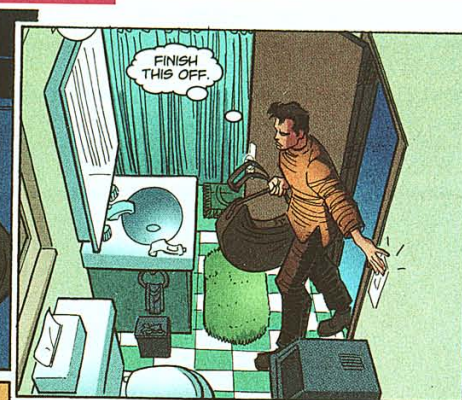




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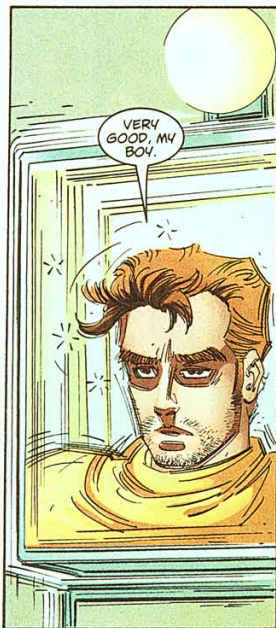


THAT'S IT...
WHY SO TIED...
WHY STRANGE
DREAMS...



...TOOTHPASTE!

FWAN!



VERY
GOOD, MY
BOY.



BUT I'M
AFRAID YOU
FIGURED IT
OUT A LITTLE
TOO LATE.



THE TOOTHPASTE WAS
JUST ONE OF THE
MANY SURPRISES I
HAD SENT YOUR
WAY.

REST EASY,
MY BOY, IT'LL
ALL BE OVER
BEFORE YOU
KNOW IT.



THERE IS
NOTHING TO
BE AFRAID
OF.

YOU'RE
GOING TO
MAKE ME
PROUD.

TIME TO
WAKE UP,
SON.

I'VE GOT
YOU. THERE'S
REALLY
NOTHING TO
BE AFRAID
OF... I KNOW...
I'VE BEEN
THERE.

OF COURSE, I
WAS YOUNGER
THAN YOU WERE WHEN
I ENTERED THE HOUSE
AND HEARD THE CALL
OF THE DARKNESS,
BUT...

...THERE'S
NOTHING TO BE
DONE ABOUT IT NOW.
WE'LL HAVE TO WORK
HARDER WITH YOU
BECAUSE YOU'RE
OLDER.

YOU'RE
INSANE,
NORMAN.

YOU
MAY WELL BE
RIGHT.

BUT LET'S
NOT GET OFF ON THE
WRONG FOOT. WE'RE
HERE TO HELP YOU
FIND YOUR WAY.

THE
DARKNESS
WILL SAVE YOU,
MY BOY. I
PROMISE YOU
THAT.

IT DID ME...
TWICE!

THE FIRST
TIME WHEN I
WAS A CHILD... IT
KEPT ME SAFE
AND TOOK AWAY
MY FEARS.

THE SECOND
TIME WAS WHEN
I GOT IMPALED ON
MY GOBLIN GLIDER...
YOU REMEMBER
THAT, DON'T
YOU?

YOU
MIGHT CALL
IT A NEAR DEATH
EXPERIENCE. I WAS
HEADING DOWN THAT
TUNNEL... TOWARD
THE LIGHT,
WHEN...

...THE
DARKNESS
CALLED ME BACK.
TOOK A LEFT TURN
AND IT SAVED
MY LIFE.

AND IT
WILL DO THE
SAME FOR YOU,
MY BOY.

YOU'LL
SEE.

* Back in Amazing Spider-Man
Vol. 1 #122 -- Recallin' Ralf.



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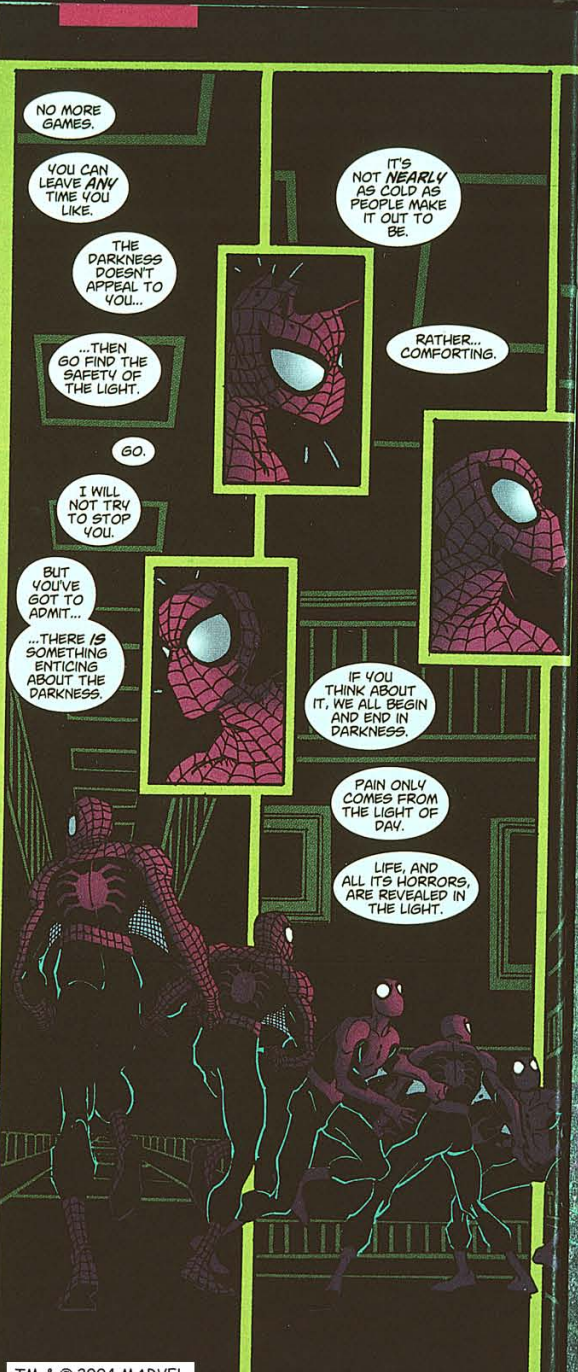


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SORRY TO DISRUPT YOUR DREAMS, M' BOY, BUT IT IS TIME TO GET TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND.

I'M NOT PLAYING ANY MORE OF YOUR GAMES, NORMAN.



NO MORE GAMES.

YOU CAN LEAVE ANY TIME YOU LIKE.

THE DARKNESS DOESN'T APPEAL TO YOU...

...THEN GO FIND THE SAFETY OF THE LIGHT.

GO.

I WILL NOT TRY TO STOP YOU.

BUT YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT...

...THERE IS SOMETHING ENTICING ABOUT THE DARKNESS.

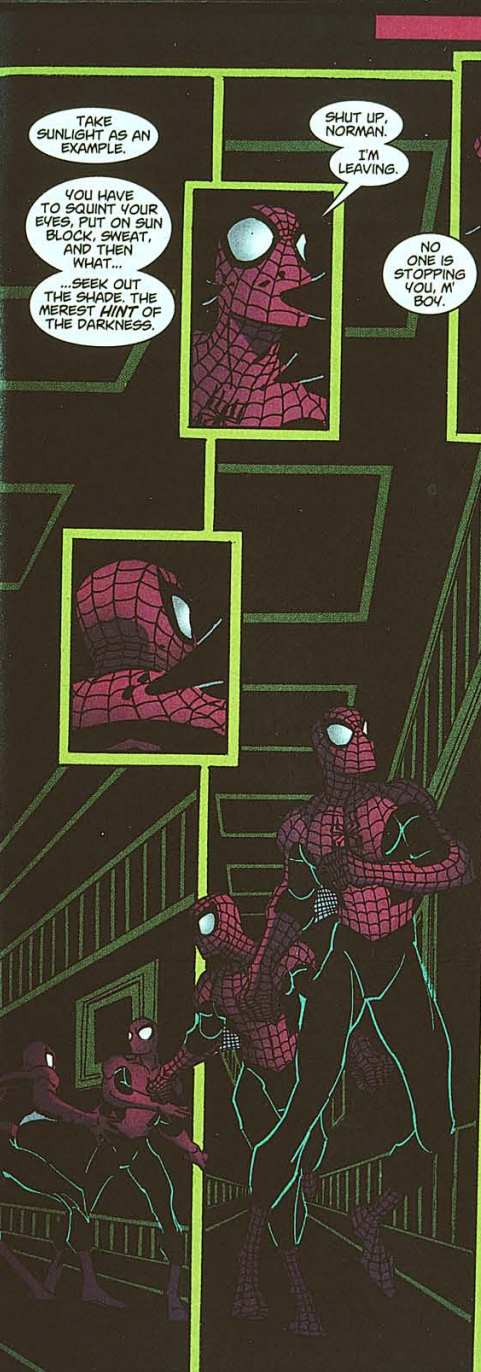
IT'S NOT NEARLY AS COLD AS PEOPLE MAKE IT OUT TO BE.

RATHER... COMFORTING.

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, WE ALL BEGIN AND END IN DARKNESS.

PAIN ONLY COMES FROM THE LIGHT OF DAY.

LIFE, AND ALL ITS HORRORS, ARE REVEALED IN THE LIGHT.



TAKE SUNLIGHT AS AN EXAMPLE.

YOU HAVE TO SQUINT YOUR EYES, PUT ON SUN BLOCK, SWEAT, AND THEN WHAT...

...SEEK OUT THE SHADE, THE MEREST HINT OF THE DARKNESS.

SHUT UP, NORMAN. I'M LEAVING.

NO ONE IS STOPPING YOU, M' BOY.



DADDY, IS THAT YOU?

WHERE ARE YOU, DADDY? I'M SCARED. HAVE YOU COME BACK TO HELP ME?



NORMIE?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NORMAN? WHAT KIND OF TWISTED GAME ARE YOU PLAYING WITH YOUR OWN GRANDSON?

THE BOY NEEDS A FATHER, PETER. EVERY BOY NEEDS A FATHER. I'M JUST TRYING TO GIVE HIM WHAT HE NEEDS.



HELP HIM IF YOU WISH.

YOU COULD NEVER --

IF NOT ME...

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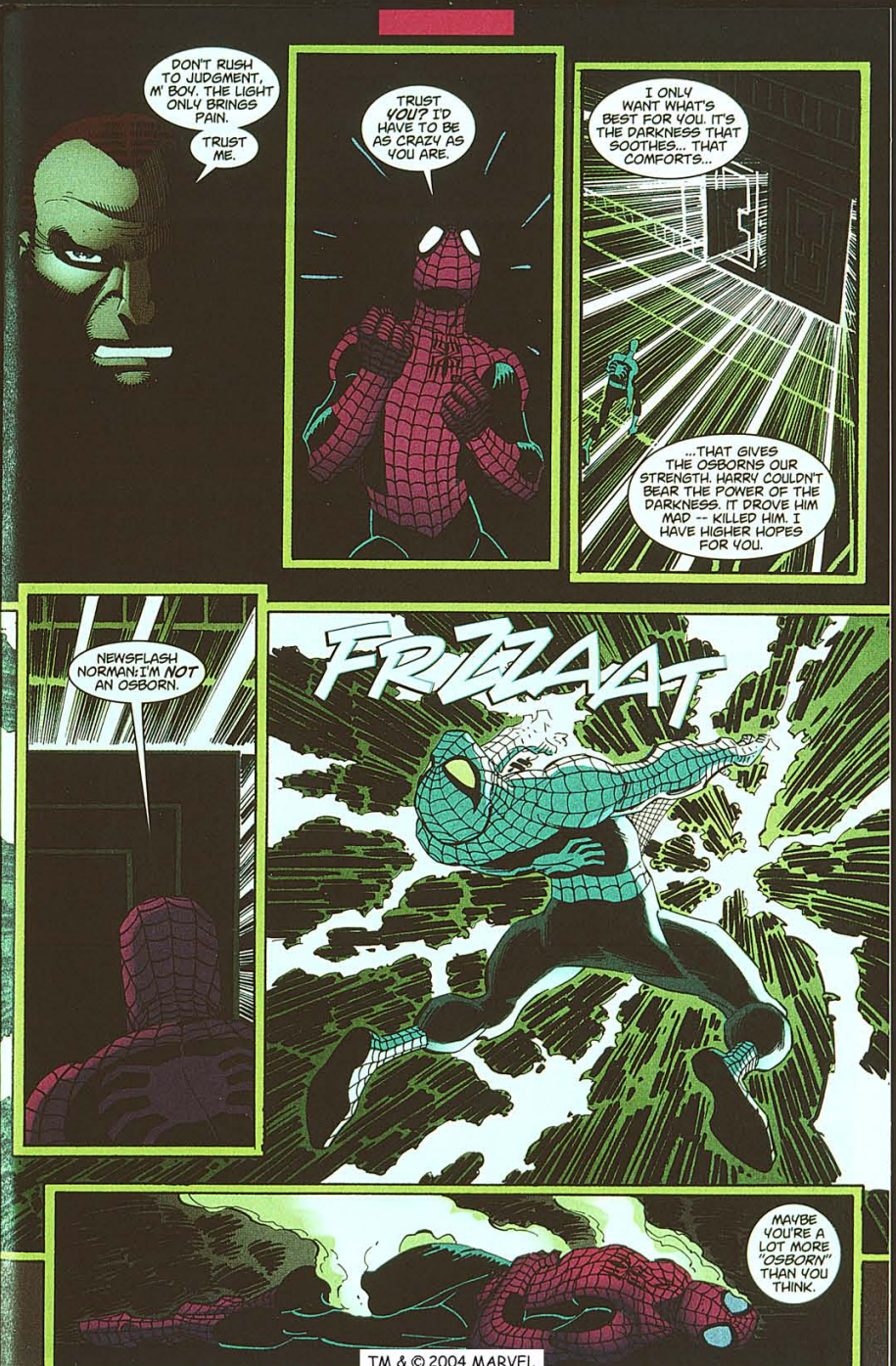
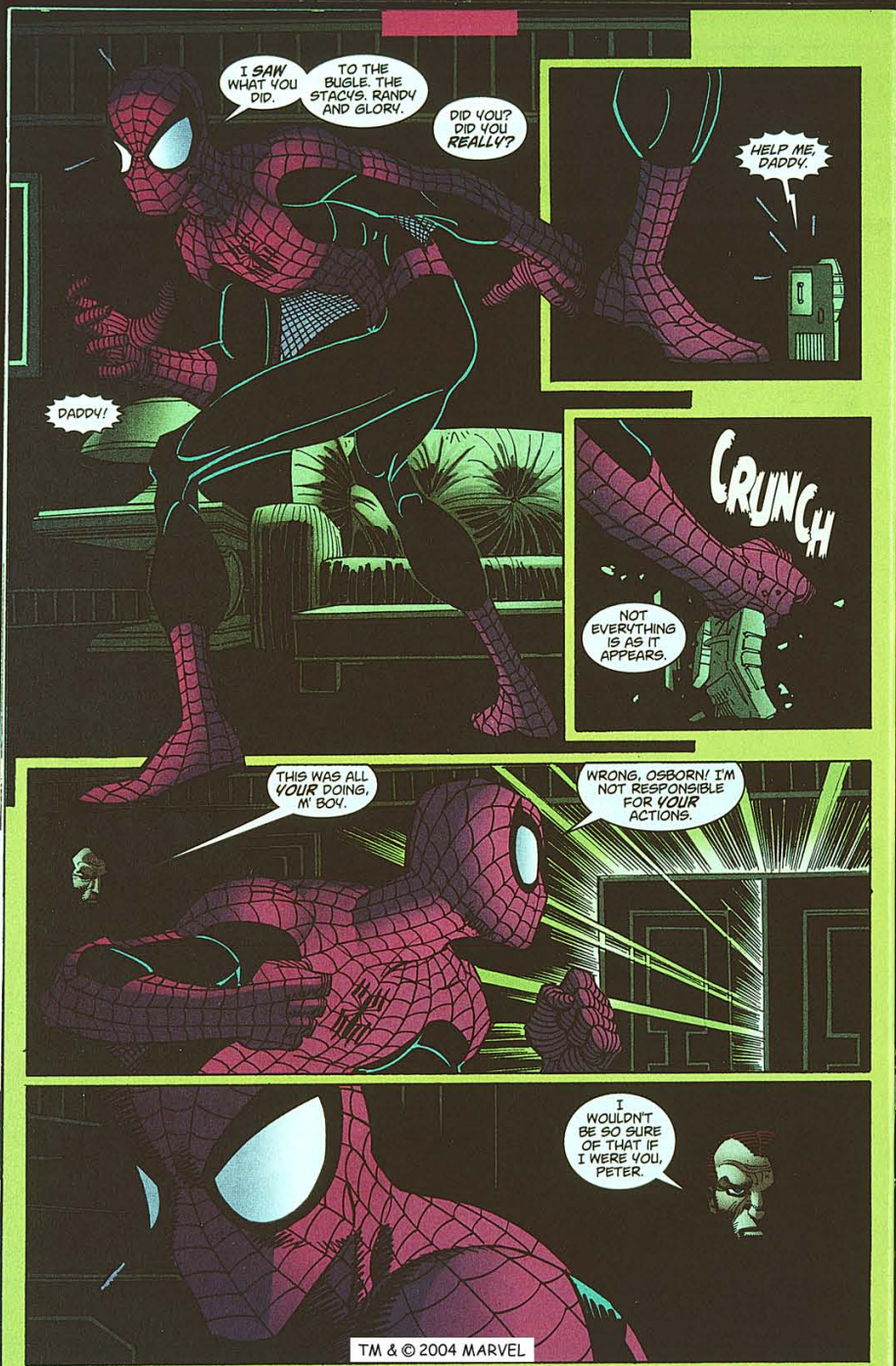
it's all for them!

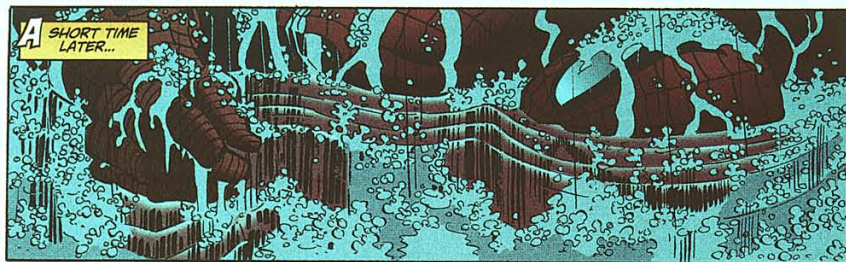
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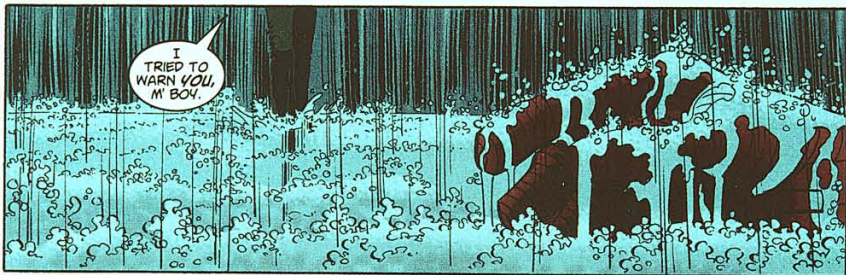


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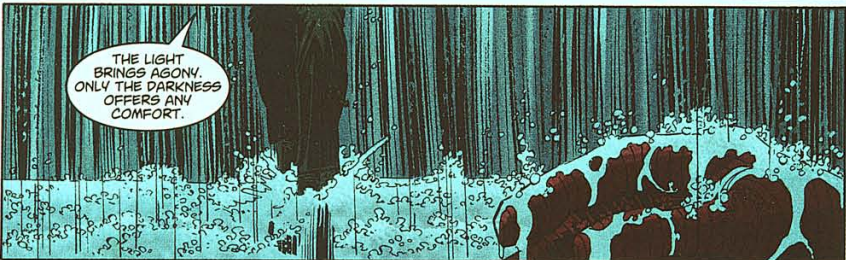




A SHORT TIME LATER...



I TRIED TO WARN YOU, MY BOY.



THE LIGHT BRINGS AGONY. ONLY THE DARKNESS OFFERS ANY COMFORT.



UNNH... IS THERE... SOME KIND OF POINT TO ALL OF THIS?

YOU DO HAVE ONE, DON'T YOU?



YES. YES, I DO.

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I ALREADY TOLD YOU...
...IT WASN'T ME.



I'VE COME TO REALIZE SOME THINGS, PETER -- ABOUT YOU, ABOUT ME -- ABOUT WHERE WE STAND IN ALL OF THIS MADNESS.



UNNH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SIMPLY THAT I WISH TO GIVE YOU THAT WHICH RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO YOU, SON. YOU DON'T REMEMBER, DO YOU?

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IT WASN'T ME IN THE COSTUME, PETER.

IT WASN'T ME WHO TERRORIZED YOUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES.

IT WAS ALL YOU, MY BOY!
YOU ALL ALONG!

COME NOW.
ENTER THE DARKNESS.

BE A MAN!
BE AN OSBORN.

TO BE CONTINUED IN
PETER PARKER #25

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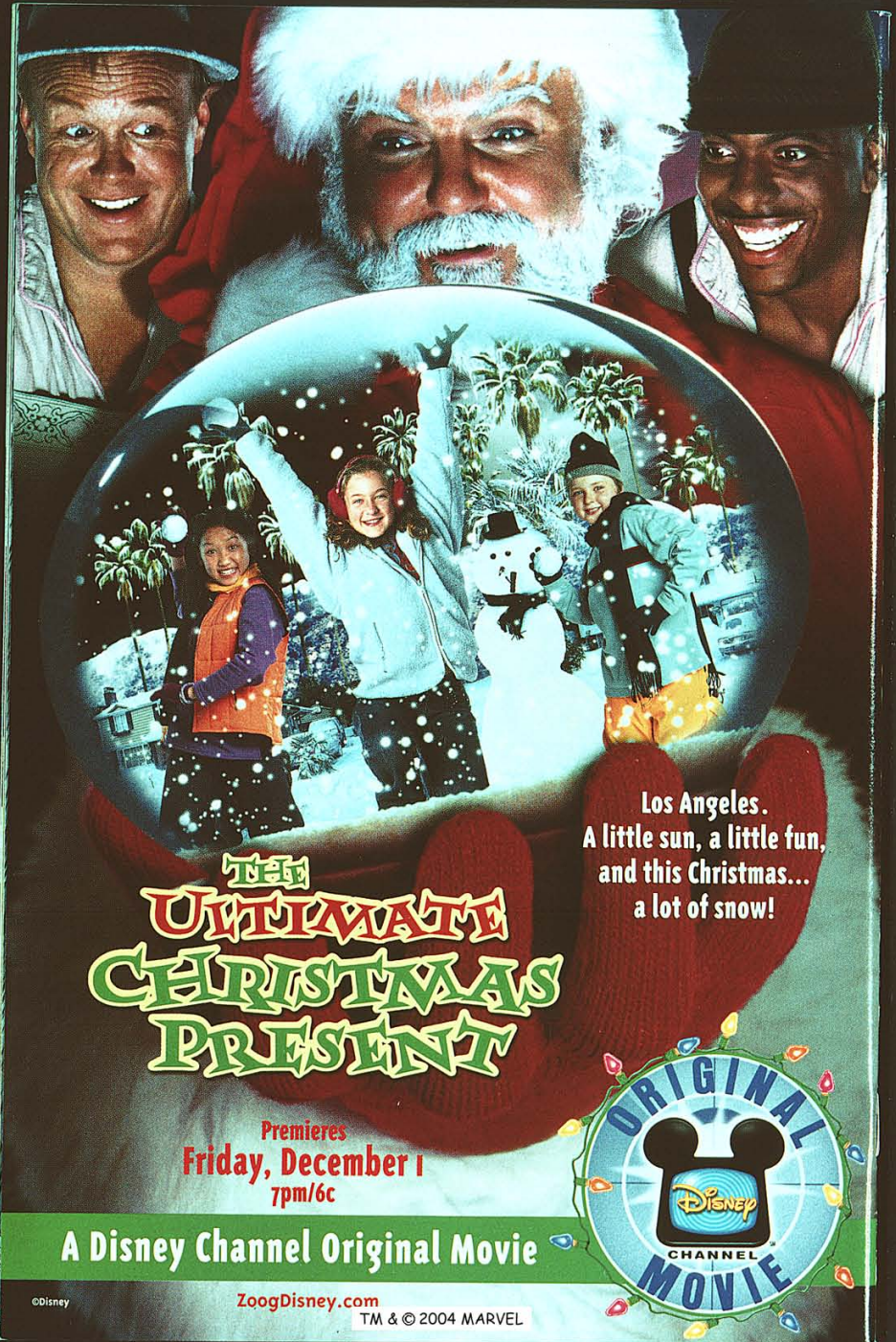
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the cookies gone?



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